

PANIL Meeting October 10, 2018

## Agenda

- 1) Update from BART
- 2) Report from CRO Anna Sanchez
- 3) League of Women Voters Ballot Measures Review

Approximately 25 people were in attendance.

### 1) Update from BART

Direct Rebecca Saltzman addressed the meeting. One major concern has been public safety after the attacks two months ago at the MacArthur station. Ms. Saltzman noted BART has beefed up its patrols of cars and is actively recruiting new officers to supplement the patrols. To reduce fare-evaders BART is looking to raise the heights of its entrance barriers.

BART is taking a "fix-it" first approach to avoid higher costs in the future. Major track upgrades are taking place throughout the system. 90% of the capital budget is going to upgrading. BART is adding 30 new cars to its fleet, at the rate of a few each month. In addition to holding more rides, the cars will have 3 doors on each side to speed the boarding process.

Transbay capacity will be increased by 25% from 24 trains hourly to 30.

Asked what BART is doing to accommodate the high increase of population density in our area, Ms. Saltzman noted it's happening all over the Bay Area. One such effort will be a second trans-bay crossing, but that's "down the road" a bit.

Ms. Saltzman urged the audience to defeat State Prop. 6, the gas tax repeal. It would endanger BART funding, as well as many other transportation improvements planned.

### 2) Report from Community Resource Officer

Anna Sanchez, the Community Resource Officer (CRO) provided an update on local crime. Anna reported that auto burglaries and thefts continue to dominate crime. [Bill Manley, Panil SC member had his car stolen the Saturday before this meeting].

There were a couple of strong-arm robberies in the Ridge parking area. This is about the norm. There was one robbery on Piedmont Ave. Overall statistics are good in comparison to previous years. The main area of complaint is in traffic violations, in particular on Piedmont Avenue and Pleasant Valley Rd. One attendee mentioned failure to stop before right turns at stop signs along

Piedmont. Officer Sanchez noted that OPD was aware of the problem and made 30 stops of motorists for that kind of activity on Piedmont Ave. in the last month alone. A few people spoke about the on-going problem of homeless settlements that have sprouted on the side near the underpass by MacArthur and Harrison. The problem under the freeway itself has moved to the city-owned sidewalks on the South side of MacArthur. Officer Sanchez said she'd investigate.

The Crime Reduction Team, which focuses on gang activity was introduced.

Another item of concern were long wait times for 911 - a woman in the audience said it took 6 minutes to get an answer. Also non-emergency calls are a problem as well. Wait times are longer and one audience member reported two of his calls were simply dropped after 7 minutes of ringing. Officer Sanchez said the call centers are seriously understaffed and are on mandatory overtime.

3) Gail Wallace, from the league of Women Voters reviewed the ballot measures.

Ms. Wallace reviewed the 11 Statewide measures (numbered 1-12, but #9 was pulled), 5 Oakland measures and 2 Peralta Community College District measures and FF, the East Bay Regional Parks measure.

This summary will not attempt to repeat the hour-long but concise and balanced summary by Ms. Wallace. Please refer to the LOWV website.

But the presentation was very informative and well-received.

Next month's meeting on November 14 will

He wanted to dispel two widespread rumors: that the Oakland homeless population is migrating here from San Francisco and that people are coming from many other areas to Oakland. There are estimated to be 2800-3000 homeless. 69% are categorized as unshelteredd, i.e. living on the street. The remainder are those living in formal shelters, such as the Tuff Sheds on Wood street or the SRO's (single resident occupancy) shelters that the city has supported.

86% of the homeless population lived in Alameda County before becoming homeless. He distributed a flyer from Everyonehome.org that provided a thorough breakdown of the homeless demographics in Alameda county. The survey is taken every two years in January and that last was done in 2017. What the survey confirmed is that there has been a sharp increase in the homeless population in

the last few years. The population is 2/3 single men. Less than 10% are over 60, as the conditions don't favor longevity.

One very successful shelter has been the Henry Robinson Center, an SRO that services approximately 300 people annually, with a 80% success rate in transition the residents to permanent housing. It has 170 beds but they are in the process of doubling capacity.

Meeting attendees identified trouble spots close to our area. One that has been mentioned frequently at other meetings is Mosswood Park. A temporary rec center is being set up to replace the one that burned down (which according to one attendee, caused by a homeless breakin). The rec center will host a disabled children program, so there is added incentive to clear up the homeless problems in the park. Another area that was brought up and discussed at length in an earlier PANIL meeting was the Harrison/MacArthur encampment. The sidewalk along Macarthur is now blocked by tarps and tents.

Mr. DeVries identified to levels of intervention: deep clean and closure. The first involves notifying homeless campers that the city will do a cleanup and they will remove debris at a future date and time. Residents secure their belonging, but they are not forcibly removed. A closure is when homeless are permanently removed and prohibited from returning. The second step is triggered by location or volume of complaints. Proximity to schools (but not parks) was mentioned. Removal is complicated by the involvement of Caltrans. Areas adjacent to freeways or under overpasses is most often under Caltrans jurisdiction, and the city must work with them.

Council Dan Kalb spoke next. He applauded the work of Mr. DeVries and stated the city is working very hard to find accommodations for the homeless. Development Impact Fees, assessed on the abundant new development in Oakland, is slow to trickle in. Major city mayors are making a case to the governor to allocate much more money for low-cost housing, but with limited success.